

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-02 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIE-00
ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 INRE-00
HEW-04 SSO-00 HA-05 OIC-02 MMO-01 /095 W
-----007619 251715Z /43

O R 251630Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4782
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 02353

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO GOI PERM REP DISCUSSION WITH AMB.
TORRES CONCERNING UNESCO DRAFT DECLARATION
ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 417, (B) PARIS 1205

1. GOI PREPERMREP, MEIR JOFFE, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR
TORRES ON JAN. 18. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO RELAY GOI
VIEWS ON UPCOMING UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE
ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE (MARCH 13-20, IN PARIS),
AND TO SOUND OUT US POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. JOFFE
INDICATED HE ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT HE WOULD
ALSO BE CONTACTING VAN USSEL (BELGIUM), CARDUCCI (ITALY)
AND VALERY (FRANCE).

2. JOFFE SAID HE CERTAIN THAT UNGA RES. 3379
EQUATING ZIONISM AND RACISM, WOULD BE RAISED AT CON-
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ERENCE. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD SEEM THAT MOTION COULD BE
DEFEATED, HE HOPES IT WILL BE HANDLED IN A WAY WHICH
WOULD AVOID A MAJOR DEBATE OR VOTE. A MAJOR FIGHT OVER
THIS ISSUE COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE RESULTS FOR CURRENT
MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS, AND ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE
UNESCO'S IMAGE IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. IN VIEW
SIGNIFICANCE THESE QUESTIONS, JOFFE BELIEVED US

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE NECESSARY FOR PROTECTING ITS INTERESTS. GOI WILL PROBABLY ALSO PARTICIPATE, AND IS SOUNDING OTHER PERM DELS AS TO SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS. ISRAELI PARTICIPATING, HOWEVER, ALSO CONTINGENT ON US DECISION CONCERNING PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION. IF US DOES PARTICIPATE, JOFFE SAID DECISION TO "WALK-OUT" IF RES. 3379 IS ADOPTED, OR EVEN IF THERE IS MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT IT MIGHT BE, SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR WELL IN ADVANCE OF CONFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, US SHOULD CONSIDER MAKING KNOWN THAT UNESCO ADOPTION OF REFERENCE TO RES. 3379 WOULD RECREATE ILO SITUATION IN A UNESCO CONTEXT. IN TALKS WITH OTHER PERM DELS, JOFFE SAID THAT HE WOULD URGE CLEAR STATEMENT OF "WESTERN" POSITION ON "WALK-OUT", SO THAT DG AND OTHERS WOULD NOT BE MISLEAD BY "WESTERN" PARTICIPATION.

3. AMBASSADOR TORRES RESPONDED THAT US IS STILL WEIGHIN "PROS AND CONS" OF PARTICIPATION IN MEETING. HE TOLD JOFFE THAT US NATCOM HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO STATE DEPT. THAT US SHOULD TAKE PART, NOT ONLY TO DEFEND ITS POSITION ON ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE US HAS AN UNQUALIFIED INTEREST IN SUBSTANCE OF RACE QUESTIONS. TORRES SHARED WITH JOFFE CONCERN THAT "WESTERN" STATES SHOULD COMPOSE THEIR STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH RES. 3379 WELL IN ADVANCE OF MARCH 13-20
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CONFERENCE, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD REVIEW US POSITION WITH JOFFE AS SOON AS THIS RECEIVED FROM THE DEPT. IN THE MEANTIME, HE WOULD APPRECIATE JOFFE'S REPORT ON MEETINGS WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

4. PROVIDING MORE BACKGROUND ON QUESTION OF RES. 3379, JOFFE ALSO RECOUNTED DISCUSSION HE HAD HAD WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SECRETARY-GENERAL, JEAN MARIE SOUTOU, WHOM HE HAD MET AT A DINNER PARTY ON JAN. 17 AT OF HOME OF GOI AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. JOFFE TOLD SOUTOU, ON THIS OCCASION, HE CONCERNED THAT RES. 3379 WOULD BE RAISED AT CONFERENCE ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE, AND THAT HE HOPED EC-9 WOULD PREPARE GROUND TO HEAD OFF A DEVISIVE DEBATE, AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION, PRIOR TO CONVENING OF MEETING.

5. SOUTOU REPLIED THAT HE AWARE THAT RES. 3379 WILL PROBABLY BE INTRODUCED AS AMENDMENT TO DRAFT DECLARATION. SPECIFICALLY, HE BELIEVED ON BASIS OF HIS OWN SOURCES, THAT USSR WOULD BE ONE OF PRINCIPALS BEHIND THIS EFFORT. THE SOVIETS AND EE'S COULD

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HEW-04 SSO-00 HA-05 OIC-02 MMO-01 /095 W
-----008196 251715Z /43

O R 251630Z JAN 78
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BE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE TO FOSTER
ILLUSION OF SOVIET-ARAB SOLIDARITY TO HELP CAMOUFLAGE
ITS SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA AGAINST SOMALIA, AND TO KEEP
MIDDLE EASTERN POT BOILING IN VIEW OF SADAT-BEGIN
PEACE INITIATIVES.

6. CONTINUING, SOUTOU RECALLED THE "DISAGREEABLE"
POSITION FRANCE HAD FOUND ITSELF IN WHEN FORCED TO
"WALK-OUT" DURING THE 1975 INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE.
HE HOPED THAT FRANCE WOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID A CON-
FRONTATION WITH ARABS ON THIS ISSUE, AND WOULD NOT BE
FACED WITH HAVING TO TAKE SUCH A DECISION AGAIN.
ACCORDING TO JOFFE, SOUTOU REFERRED TO ISRAELI-FRENCH
BILATERAL DIFFICULTIES (SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING
ECONOMIC ISSUES), AND SAID THAT IN EVENT RES. 3379
BECOMES AN ISSUE AT THE MARCH CONFERENCE, HE TOO HOPES
IT WILL BE HANDLED IN SUCH A WAY THAT FRANCE CAN
STRONGLY SUPPORT GOI IN THIS MATTER. IT, THEREFORE,
IMPORTANT THAT GROUND BE WELL PREPARED FOR HEAD-
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ING OFF (INTENSE) DEBATE AND, HOPEFULLY, A VOTE ON ISSUE. TO FOSTER THIS RESULT, FRANCE SHOULD TAKE A STRONG POSITION, AND PLAY LEADING ROLE IN EC-9. JOFFE SHOULD DISCUSS QUESTION OF STRATEGY AND TACTICS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO, FRANCOIS VALERY. IF VALERY BELIEVES THERE ANY NEED FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION OR INSTRUCTIONS, HE SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO SOUTOU.

7. JOFFE ALSO NOTED THAT BOSSIER-PALUN HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE, AND, HE BELIEVES WILL USE INFLUENCE IN COORDINATING WITH AFRICAN STATES AND THE DG TO PUT DOWN ATTEMPTS TO AMEND TEXT WITH REF. TO UN RES. 3379.

8. ON JANUARY 24, JOFFE REPORTED BACK TO AMBASSADOR TORRES THAT AMBASSADOR VALERY FULLY COGNIZANT OF RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE CONFERENCE ISSUES, AND IN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTOU. VALERY CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HE BELIEVED AFRICAN "BLOC" LESS MANAGEABLE UNDER PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF AGIOBU-KEMER (NIGERIA) THAN BEFORE UNDER BOSSIER-PALUN WHO NOW RELEGATED TO POSITION OF COUNSELOR TO DG RATHER THAN FUNCTIONING IN HIS PREVIOUS CAPACITY AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A MEMBER STATE. (COMMENT: AGIBOU-KEMER'S LEADERSHIP ABILITY HAS YET TO BE TESTED AT UNESCO, AND THUS VALERY'S IMPRESSION SEEMS PREMATURE. A MORE HONEST ASSESSMENT AT THIS JUNCTURE MIGHT BE THAT VALERY IS MORE COMFORTABLE WITH FRENCH SPEAKING BOSSIER-PALUN THAN WITH AGIOBU-KEMER, WHO SPEAKS AND HAS RECEIVED HIS EDUCATION IN ENGLISH).

9. ANOTHER ASPECT OF RETURN VISIT WHICH PERM REP FOUND PARTICULARLY INTERESTING WAS JOFFE'S INSISTENCE ON GOI "UNDERSTANDING" THAT US HAD DECIDED AS EARLY AS CONFIDENTIAL

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SUMMER 1977 TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. TORRES JANUARY 18 COMMENT, THEREFORE, THAT US HAD NOT DECIDED YET WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE, ACCORDING TO JOFFE, HAD TAKEN GOI BY SURPRISE. JOFFE SAID THAT GOI HAD INTENDED FOR SOME TIME NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING AND CITED HIS OWN PRESENCE AT MFA MEETING EARLY IN DEC. WHERE QUESTION WAS NOT ONE OF PARTICIPATION AS SUCH, BUT THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF A GOI DELEGATION. NOW, SINCE US PARTICIPATION IS STILL A QUESTIONMARK AFTER ALL, IT WOULD BE USELESS FOR ISRAEL TO CONTINUE ITS PREPARATIONS UNTIL US POLICY IS CLEAR. JERUSALEM WILL QUERY EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT (JOFFE) WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE PERMDEL'S REACTION.

10. AMBASSADOR TORRES REPLIED THAT GOI IMPRESSION AS TO US PARTICIPATION IS INDEED SURPRISING SINCE US HAS AT NO TIME MADE OR COMMUNICATED A FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER. FURTHERMORE, AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV HAD DISCUSSED US "INTEREST" IN PARTICIPATING WITH MFA'S ABRAHAM GILADI JUST SEVERAL WEEK EARLIER, AND THAT GILADI HAD INDICATED, AS WELL, THAT GOI HAD NOT YET REACHED A FINAL DECISION (REFTEL A). THEREFORE, IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND GOI'S MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE US POSITION. JOFFE RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD TAKE THIS UP WITH JERUSALEM AND ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO SORT OUT THIS MATTER, AND ASKED THAT AMBASSADOR TORRES ALERT HIM ON RECEIVING HIS INSTRUCTIONS.

11. PERM DEL WOULD SUPPOSE THAT JOFFE'S INTENTION IN MEETINGS WITH PERM REP WAS TO TRY AND FIND OUT WHY NO US DECISION ON PARTICIPATION HAS YET

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HEW-04 SSO-00 HA-05 OIC-02 MMO-01 /094 W
-----007616 251714Z /43

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BEEN MADE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT WAY FOR US PARTICIPATION WAS ESSENTIALLY "CLEARED" BOTH WITH US PRIVATE SECTOR, AND WITH GOI. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE THE MOST LOGICAL CONCLUSION FLOWING FROM JOFFE'S GENERAL PRESENTATION, AND "BAFFLEMENT" OVER FACT THAT

PERM DEL STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS.

12. ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE EMERGED AS A RESULT OF CURRENT ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH JOFFE, AND RECENT EVENTS AT UNESCO, IS THE POSITION THAT USSR MAY TAKE WITH RESPECT TO UN RES. 3379. SOUTOU'S COMMENTS TO JOFFE CONCERNING ACTIVE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR RES. 3379 CORRESPONDS WITH REPORTED SOVIET INSISTENCE THAT RES. 3379 SHOULD BE RESTORED TO UNESCO DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES (REFTEL B). FURTHERMORE, DURING JAN. 9-20 UNESCO EXBD WORKING GROUP NEGOTIATIONS WHICH RESULTED IN A DRAFT POSITION FOR STRENGTHENING UNESCO'S HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY, SOVIET PARTICIPANTS BROUGHT
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QUESTION OF ISRAELI POLICIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO THE FOREFRONT (BOTH THE US AND USSR WERE REPRESENTED IN THIS WORKING GROUP) IN THE PAST DURING UNESCO DEBATES ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES INVOLVING THE "MASSIVE AND FLAGRANT" VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, CHILE ALWAYS BORE THE BRUNT OF THE SOVIET ATTACK. AT THESE MOST RECENT DELIBERATIONS, HOWEVER, SOVIETS SCARCELY MENTIONED CHILE, AND CONCENTRATED INSTEAD ON ISRAEL.

13. PERMDEL HAS VAGUE NOTION AS TO DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING DECISION WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING BROUGHT UP-TO-DATE ON STATE OF PLAY. WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT NON PARTICIPATION IN THIS MEETING WOULD HURT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE DG AND WEAKEN CONFIDENCE IN THE US OF "OUR FRIENDS" AT UNESCO. AS MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN GROUP ALL SAY, FOR THE US NOT TO PARTICIPATE, IS UNTHINKABLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND DEPT. THAT INFORMATION GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN ON FEB. 2 TO DISCUSS AMENDMENTS TO TEXT WHICH WILL BE RELAYED TO BOSSIERPALUN. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT US BE PREPARED TO ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION AT THAT MEETING, AND TO SUBMIT ITS COMMENTS ON DRAFT DECLARATION.
TORRES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PREJUDICE, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS02353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780037-0588
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780124/aaaaauchb.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEL AVIV 417, 78 PARIS 1205
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3716770
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO GOI PERM REP DISCUSSION WITH AMB. TORRES CONCERNING UNESCO DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE
TAGS: PORG, FR, IS, US, UNESCO, (JOFFE, MEIR), (TORRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ecaa1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014